

March 16, 2009

Thomas P. Gaffey, Co-Chair  
Andrew M. Fleishmann, Co-Chair  
Education Committee  
Room 3100, Legislative Office Building  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Regarding Raised Bill # 6666, Section 7**

An act requiring School Districts to utilize Board Certified Behavior Analysts when and individual education plan includes applied behavior analytic services as part of a student's special education

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the parent of a child with autism, and am in support of Raised Bill # 6666, Section 7. I support this bill because it is necessary to ensure that children with autism receive a free and appropriate education implemented by qualified personnel.

My son is 12 this week. He was enrolled in a public school program in the town where we live that advertised that they used "ABA," but it was not administered by anyone who was certified. He regressed, was filled with anxiety and irrational fears.

For the past year and a half, he has been in a GREAT program at CT Center for Child Development in Milford. This program uses BOARD CERTIFIED BEHAVIOR ANALYSTS. He has made TREMENDOUS PROGRESS.

No school should be able to claim that they have an ABA program without it being administered by certified, trained professionals.

I recently heard a conversation between two women who pulled their children out of an "ABA program" in northern CT. From what they described, the program did not sound like a true ABA program. The staff only had 2 weeks of training. They made statements about ABA not working for their children. The unfortunate result was that these women don't know if an ABA program would have helped their children or not.

Please pass this bill to help the children that would benefit from this programming. In addition to helping the children who need it, it will ultimately save the school districts money as children will not have to be out-placed in the community.

Thank you,

Jill Correnti  
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